

Appl. No. 10/754,323
Amdt. dated October 14, 2005
Reply to Office action of July 28, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

The list of claims is as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): In a connector that is stabbed through a slot in a main beam in a suspended ceiling grid to lock with an opposing identical connector already in the slot, and that has a cantilevered spring locking latch that is integral with, and, in a relaxed position, extends away pivoted from a base in the connector;

the improvement comprising pivoting the a locking latch that, in the relaxed position, extends away from the base in an arc[[.]],

wherein, when the connector is being stabbed through the slot, the cantilevered latch is forced by a side of the slot to flex along the arc toward the base to permit the latch to pass through the slot, and, when the connector has been stabbed through the slot, the cantilevered latch flexes along the arc back to its relaxed position wherein it extends away from the base in an arc.

Claim 2 (original): The improvement of claim 1, wherein the arc forms a radius of about .04 inches.

Claim 3 (original): The improvement of claim 1, wherein the locking latch is constructed substantially in accordance with the dimensions shown in Figure 2a.

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Claim 4 (original): The improvement of claim 1, wherein such improvement provides a delay in contact between the side of the slot and the locking latch, during which delay a taper on the connector being stabbed through the slot positions the connector vertically within the slot, more quickly than without the delay.

Claim 5 (original): The improvement of claim 1, wherein such improvement provides a delay in contact between the side of the slot and the locking latch, so that a greater lever arm is created to flex the locking latch as it is stabbed through the slot than would be created without the delay.

Claim 6 (original): The improvement of claim 1, wherein such improvement provides a delay in contact between the side of the slot and the locking latch, during which delay the lateral friction created between the connector already in the slot, and the connector that is being stabbed through the slot, is substantially reduced from said lateral friction created without the delay.

Claim 7 (original): The improvement of claim 1, wherein such improvement provides a delay in contact between the side of the slot and the locking latch, so that during the delay the connector being stabbed through the slot can be adjusted vertically to a position where it locks with the connector already in the slot.

Claim 8 (original): In combination, the improvements set forth in claims 1 through 7 above.

Claim 9 (original): A connector of claim 8 wherein substantially less force over a shorter distance is required with the improvements set forth in claim 8, to lock the

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connectors to each other and to the main beam, than is required without the improvements.

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Amendments to the Drawings

None.